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U.S. Planting Seed Trade

July 1997-January 1998 Highlights

General Trade Summary

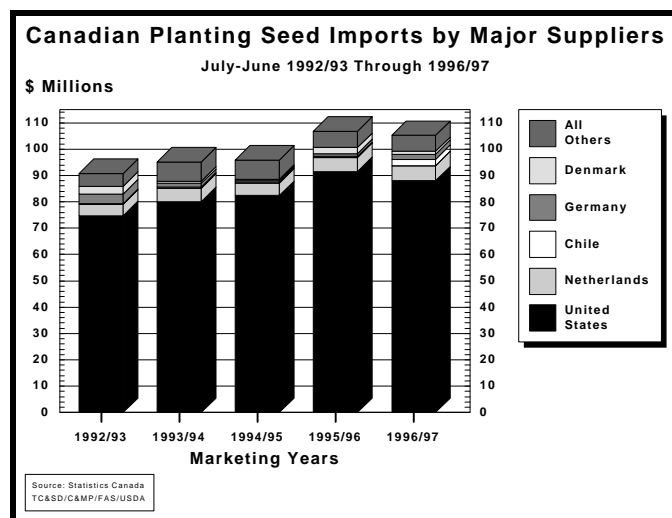
U.S. planting seed exports during July 1997-January 1998 totaled 545,050 metric tons valued at \$554.2 million, a decrease of 20 percent in volume but an increase of 2 percent in value over the same period in 1996/97. Imports for the period totaled 78,866 tons (about 1 percent above a year ago) valued at \$177.0 million (15 percent above last year).

Attache Reports

Following are excerpts from U.S. Agricultural Attache reports recently received in FAS/Washington. Copies of the complete reports may be obtained by contacting the Cotton, Oilseeds, Tobacco, and Seeds Division at the address, telephone or Fax number listed on the back cover.

Canada (Report number CA8010): Several regulatory changes affecting the seed industry occurred over the past year. Among them was the establishment of the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) in April 1997. CFIA has acquired the authority to regulate agricultural products of biotechnology from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC). CFIA's approach to regulating products of biotechnology is based upon the following principles:

- Building upon existing legislation where possible. Under the Seeds Act, seeds developed through biotechnology must meet the same requirements as those developed through more traditional methods. Field testing of genetically engineered plants must be approved by CFIA's Plant Products Division.
- Regulation based upon product characteristics. The scientific evaluation process addresses primarily the characteristics of the product rather than the method by which it was produced.
- Regulation on a case-by-case basis. This applies whether the product was developed through



biotechnology or through traditional methods.

Plants, including seed, with novel traits are subject to the Plant Protection Act and Regulations and the Seeds Act and Regulations. CFIA'S primary requirements include:

- a safety assessment from the Plant Products Division;
- for imported seed, a safety assessment and an import permit from the Plant Protection Division;
- authorization from the Plant Biotechnology Office of the Plant Products Division for confined release into the environment for field testing;
- authorization from the Plant Biotechnology Office for environmental (unconfined) release into the environment.

Plants with novel traits are also subject to requirements relating to the end use of the plant. For example, Health Canada would require a food safety assessment under the Novel Food Regulations if the novel plant material is to be used as food. Similar requirements exist for CFIA approval under the Feeds Act for novel plant material to be used as animal feed.

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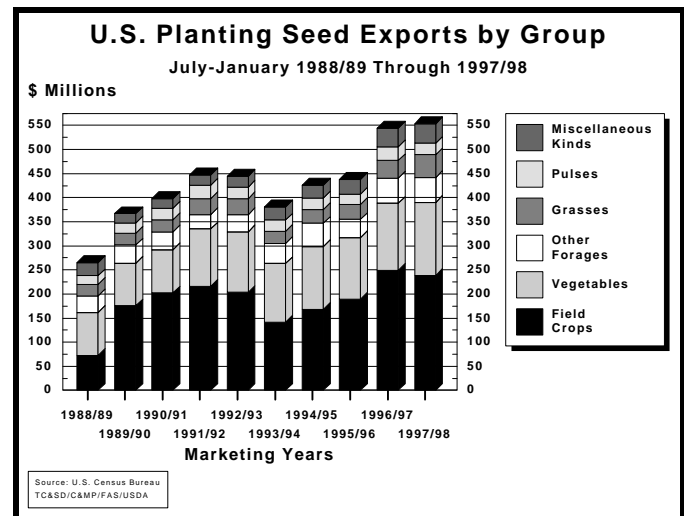
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Trade Inquiries

The following trade inquiries were recently submitted by a U.S. agricultural office for publication as a "Trade Lead." For more information about Trade Leads call 202-690-3416.

Seeds for Sowing, tree and shrub-Japan Kenaf Seeds QUANTITY: Small start. QUALITY: Good. DELIVERY: Year around. PACKAGING: Export standard. OTHER: Company ref: An importer established in 1968 with annual imports of \$5 million. QUOTE: FOB. BANK: The Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi, Osaka Branch. CONTACT: Mr. T. Horikawa, Miki Corporation, 2-800, Umeda 1-2, Kita-ku Osaka, 530-0001, Japan Phone: 011-81-6-345-6404. FAX: 011-81-6-345-6821.



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